

DL
671
C333
BIRD

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

SMITHSONIAN

MAR 25 2015

LIBRARIES

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 61

April 2015

Number 2

Clemson Spring Meeting

Jeff Click



Spring birding in the South Carolina Upstate is among the best the Carolinas has to offer. The diverse landscape and habitats include open-country agricultural areas, the rugged extremes of the Blue Ridge Escarpment, rolling foothills with rich cove hardwood forests, lush mountain rivers, marshes and wetlands, and vistas of Lakes Hartwell, Keowee, and beautiful Jocassee nestled in the mountains along the escarpment. This variety of habitats brings with it a great diversity of migrant and resident bird life. Some of the most sought-after residents include Swainson's, Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Worm-eating Warblers, and migrants that include Blackpoll, Cape May, Blackburnian, and many other warblers.

We'll visit well-established birding hot spots such as the Townville area, Lake Conestee Nature Park, Sasfras Mountain, and the Walhalla Fish Hatchery, but will also visit up-and-coming locations known best to only the local birding community. Spots such as the South Carolina Botanical Gardens, the Clemson University Aquaculture Facility, the Nine Times Preserve, and the Eastatoe Valley are quickly developing reputations for attracting a great variety of migrants. Our list of warblers and other passerines should be quite impressive by the end of the weekend, and the mountains should give us a chance to find Common Ravens, Broad-winged Hawks, and Peregrine Falcons.

Our host hotel for the weekend will be the Courtyard Clemson, located at 201 Canoy Lane. This is just off

Highway 93, north of US-123 in Clemson, and is convenient to local dining and a good departure point for our field trips. The hotel features a Starbucks, a bistro, a bar in the lobby, and serves prepared breakfast for an additional cost. Breakfast starts at 6:00 AM on Friday and 6:30 AM on Saturday. The CBC rate for double or king rooms is \$99 per night. To book your room, use the link on the Carolina Bird Club website, or call (864) 654-8833, and be sure to mention the Carolina Bird Club to get the group rate and be placed in the CBC block.

Events on Friday and Saturday evening will be held in the auditorium at the Madren Center on the campus of Clemson University. A social gathering is planned before our Friday evening presentation. Our speaker Friday night will be Dr. Maria Whitehead of The Nature Conservancy in South Carolina. Dr. Whitehead will speak about The Nature Conservancy's Winyah Area Initiative, part of their land-protection efforts along the South Carolina coast, and in particular about how the Rocky Point Plantation property, which the Carolina Bird Club is helping to protect, fits in. To read more about the CBC's donation to The Nature Conservancy for this property, refer to page nine of the February CBC Newsletter.

On Saturday night (after dinner on your own), our speaker will be Dr. Drew Lanham, professor of wild-life ecology in the College of Agriculture, Forestry

(Continued on page 5)

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), April 2015, Volume 61, Number 2. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincey Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to CBC Newsletter, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincey Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

CBC Outer Banks Field Trip

Steve Shultz

The Carolina Bird Club's "bonus trip" series visited Dare and Hyde Counties in eastern North Carolina on the first weekend in December, netting a trip list of 121 species seen or heard. While the weather forecast threatened a rainy weekend, the actual experience was somewhat better. It did rain, for about twenty minutes, and while one might think that being wet on the Outer Banks in December would be a recipe for hypothermia, the fact that the temperature was just under 70 degrees made for rather pleasant birding.

In addition to several highlights, the trip was notable for the sheer numbers of birds along the Outer Banks. While pickings in some years may be a bit lean, fans of big numbers were in high cotton.

Two examples help paint the numbers picture, both involving ducks. An hour's worth of seawatching from Coquina Beach resulted in a nearly constant train of southbound scoters. Conservative estimates were 2,500 birds, 95% of which were Black Scoter. Surprisingly, considering the sheer numbers of birds, no White-winged joined the long strings of rapidly-flapping sea ducks.

Pea Island housed a nice array of waterfowl including thousands of Northern Pintail, but the highlight may have been the amazing number of Redhead, which must have exceeded 10,000 birds. Simply extraordinary numbers of these dashing ducks created rafts stretching along the lengths of both South and New Fields Ponds. A lingering Brant in South Pond displayed nicely.

Not to be outdone by the waterfowl, rails put in a nice showing, especially at Bodie Island. Sora and Virginia Rail found the calm, windless conditions conducive to feeding along the edges of the marsh, and in addition to multiples of each, some of us enjoyed seeing Virginia and Sora in the same scope field, and a Sora in flight. Bodie also produced gorgeous looks at avocets mirrored in still water, and for some lucky observers, a rusty King Rail. We later added scope views of Clapper for a four-rail weekend.

Oregon Inlet produced Purple Sandpipers at both the

groin's seaward tip and on the Bonner Bridge. The group also enjoyed seeing "Ipswich" and Savannah Sparrows sitting side by side in a low shrub.

The Pea Island area also provided nice looks at the maritime sparrows, and at one point we had Sedge Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Nelson's Sparrow in the same binocular field. Marsh Wren and Saltmarsh Sparrow were nearby for comparisons.

Saturday's birding ended at dusk with views of the Alligator River NWR Short-eared Owl, a nice way to cap off the day.

Sunday was windy at Lake Mattamuskeet, and while the birds stayed hunkered down, a pair of foxes on the wildlife drive kept us interested. We ended the day and the trip list with an obliging Orange-crowned Warbler on the causeway.

All in all, a very pleasant weekend to bird the Banks, with multiple highlights. Look for more local "bonus trips" to be advertised in the Newsletter and on the CBC website, and hope to see you soon!



The Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website, and you can elect either electronic or paper delivery. The most recent electronic editions of each are only accessible to CBC members.

To access the "members only" content, you must first create a login and password. This can be done at the Member Services page at:

[http:// www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/)



CBC Blue Ridge Parkway Field Trip

Steve Shultz

The Carolina Bird Club visited the Blue Ridge Parkway in northern North Carolina and southern Virginia the weekend of September 13-14, 2014 as part of our “bonus trip” offerings. Based in Sparta, we explored north and south on the Parkway, searching for roving flocks of fall migrants.

While statistically not one of the wetter months, I seem to have a knack for finding just that weekend in September when a cold front passes through the area. In fact, I cannot remember the last time I was on the Parkway birding in September that it did not rain, and such was the case this year. Don’t get me wrong, unsettled weather can be a boon to birding, at times resulting in nice numbers of birds that have no place else to be since the weather is not good enough to continue migration, but the problem on the Parkway in northern North Carolina is that it runs along the crest of the Blue Ridge, and is thus some of the higher terrain in the area. And that terrain is often high enough to kiss the clouds, resulting in fog. And fog is not really conducive to a good day’s birding.

So while the overall forecast could have been better, we drew at least one or two face cards when it came to the ceilings, as most of the day on Saturday we were able to find locations that were both reasonably dry and with reasonable visibility.

We found flocks of migrants, especially warblers, scattered up and down the parkway, but it only takes that one big flock to make the weekend, and we found it in the picnic area at Cumberland Knob. The furious tornado of warblers included Blue-winged, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Cape May and others, totaling nearly 15 species. Orioles, grosbeaks, tanagers and thrushes joined the fray, making for one of those “I don’t know where to focus my binoculars next” birding experiences. After an hour or so the flock dissolved as quickly as it materialized, leaving us spent, but still wanting more.

Other highlights on Saturday included an Eastern Screech-Owl responding to the trilling of the guide, drop dead looks at an inquisitive Swainson’s Thrush, and seventeen species of warbler.

The cloudy skies and low ceilings precluded much in the way of a hawk watch on Saturday, and with a favorable forecast for Sunday, we planned a return to Mahogany Rock to watch the southbound raptor train. Of course weather forecasts are just guesses, and some of those guesses are terribly wrong. As was the case on Sunday. The blue skies we expected materialized as fog and drizzle, and even the die-hard hawkers decided to stay home. So for the first time in memory, a September trip to the Blue Ridge missed Broad-winged Hawk.

I think the best story of the weekend occurred when we were all standing alongside the Parkway in a beautiful field of yellow fall flowers, training binoculars on one of those confusing fall empids. The “Traill’s Flycatcher” put on a good show, and the sight of a bunch of people standing alongside the road often slows traffic. Most speed up and get out of Dodge as quickly as possible once we tell them that, no, we are not looking at bears. Well, this car slows and stops, the woman driving leans out the window, surveys the group peering through binoculars into a small tree and asks, with all seriousness, “are ya’ll fishing?” And no, there was not a stream or creek anywhere nearby.



Swainson's Thrush by Sherry Lane



H. Douglas Pratt

Welcome New Members!

The Carolina Bird Club warmly welcomes the following new members:	Ann Jenkins Charleston, SC	Bobby & Vange Lufty Raleigh, NC	Andy Cole Wake Forest, NC	William & Sandra Coggins Eutawville, SC
James Huntington Iowa City, IA	Rita St. Clair Franklin, NC	Amelia Compton Jenny Wiley Cary, NC	Ken Davis Norfolk, VA	Rebecca & Brian Broadway Monroe, NC
Alan & Frances MacEachren Boalsburg, PA	Joe Zellers Pittsboro, NC	Roberta Newton Ann Van Sant Greensboro, NC	Ginger Richards Bluffton, SC	Michael Stewart Spring Lake, NC
Douglas & Muriel Carle Hendersonville, NC	Ronnie & Judieth Morris Greensboro, NC	Sue Albregts Concord, NC	Teal Sadler Hobucken, NC	Susan & Wade Dudley Winterville, NC
Kevin, Susie, Adam & Andrew Wojcikewych Cary, NC	Jason Winiarski Raleigh, NC	Mickey Shortt Linville, NC	Ann Orsillo Southport, NC	Jack Rogers Mt. Pleasant, SC
	Brian Ratledge Elkin, NC	Leon Outlaw Summerville, SC	Diane Logan Ridgeland, SC	David Hart Chapel Hill, NC
	Gayle Nadel Michael Beachler Washington, NC		Patrick Markham Summerville, SC	

CBC Spring Election

As the calendar rolls toward spring, it can only mean one thing. Yes, time again for CBC officer elections. We promise that no one will call your home, plant “vote for” signs on your lawn, or bombard your television viewing hours with mud-slinging advertisements. But we would like for you to participate by reviewing the slate of nominees below and voting at the Clemson meeting.

The nominees for Executive Committee positions are:

President – Irvin Pitts – Lexington, SC
(First one-year term)

SC Vice President – Teri Bergin – Mt. Pleasant
(One three-year term)

SC Member-at-Large – Steve McInnis – Columbia
(First two-year term; Pitts vacancy)

Incumbents in positions eligible for re-election are:

Treasurer – Samir Gabriel – High Point, NC
(Third and final one-year term)

Secretary – Doris Ratchford – Todd, NC
(Second one-year term)

Western NC Member-at-Large – Karyl Gabriel
High Point (Second and final two-year term)

Eastern NC Member-at-Large –
Christine Stoughton-Root – Merritt
(Second and final two-year term)

The following position was appointed and is now open to voting by the membership for an elected term:

Eastern NC Member-at-Large – Jeri Smart –
Rolesville

CBC Spring Meeting Schedule

Friday, May 1

All-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 1 – Jocassee Gorges – 6:15
- Trip 2 – Wallhalla Fish Hatchery, Burrell's Ford, and Bad Creek – 6:15
- Trip 3 – Lake Jocassee and Devils Fork SP – 6:30
- Trip 4 – Lake Conestee Nature Park – 6:30
- Trip 5 – Townville Area – 6:45
- Trip 6 – Nine Times Preserve and the Eastatoe Valley – 6:45

Morning Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 7 – Rocky River Park – 7:00
- Trip 8 – South Carolina Botanical Gardens – 7:15
- Trip 9 – Lake Issaqueena Recreation Area – 7:15
- Trip 10 – Clemson Aquaculture Facility – 7:30
- Trip 11 – South Cove County Park – 7:30

Afternoon Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

- Trip 12 – Townville Area – 1:00
- Trip 13 – South Carolina Botanical Gardens – 1:00
- Trip 14 – Clemson Experimental Forest South – 1:15
- Trip 15 – Clemson Aquaculture Facility – 1:15
- Trip 16 – Beginning Birders' Seminar at the Botanical Gardens – 1:30

Evening Program

- 6:45 PM – Social Gathering
- 7:15 PM – Welcome and Announcements
- 8:00 PM – Evening Presentation:
Dr. Maria Whitehead

Saturday, May 2

All-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 17 – Table Rock SP and Nine Times – 6:15
- Trip 18 – Wallhalla Fish Hatchery, Burrell's Ford, and Bad Creek – 6:15
- Trip 19 – Lake Jocassee and Devils Fork SP – 6:30
- Trip 20 – Cedar Falls Park – 6:30
- Trip 21 – Townville Area – 6:45
- Trip 22 – Nine Times Preserve and the Eastatoe Valley – 6:45

Morning Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 23 – Rocky River Park – 7:00
- Trip 24 – South Carolina Botanical Gardens – 7:15
- Trip 25 – Lake Issaqueena Recreation Area – 7:15
- Trip 26 – Clemson Aquaculture Facility – 7:30
- Trip 27 – South Cove County Park – 7:30

Afternoon Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

- Trip 28 – Townville Area – 1:00
- Trip 29 – South Carolina Botanical Gardens – 1:00
- Trip 30 – Clemson Experimental Forest South – 1:15
- Trip 31 – Clemson Aquaculture Facility – 1:15
- Trip 32 – Beginning Birders' Seminar at the Botanical Gardens – 1:30

Evening Program

- 7:30 PM – Announcements and Introductions
- 7:45 PM – Evening Presentation: Dr. Drew Lanham
- 8:30 PM – Species Count-Down

Clemson Spring Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

and Life Sciences at Clemson University, and a certified wildlife biologist. His research interests include songbird ecology and conservation, integration of game and nongame wildlife management, and the African-American land ethic and its role in natural resources conservation. He has received numerous awards for his teaching style. Dr. Lanham will give a presentation titled *Evolution of the Birder Conservationist – How to Make Each Bird Count*.

We hope that you will be able to come out to the Clemson meeting and enjoy the top-notch spring birding and camaraderie that we have arranged for the weekend. It should be a great one!



Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 1: Jocassee Gorges

This wilderness of deep gorges with dense thickets of rhododendron, large tracts of cove hardwood forest, oak-hickory forests, and ridgelines of dry pineland provide some of the most extensive representative habitat for species that typically occur along the Blue Ridge Escarpment. As well as being home to possibly the densest population of Worm-eating Warblers anywhere in the Carolinas, it also is ideal habitat for large numbers of Ovenbird, Hooded, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Green Warblers, as well as smaller numbers of many other species of breeding birds and migrants. Swainson's Warblers regularly breed in this area.

Access Conditions: *Participants should either drive a high-clearance (preferably 4WD) vehicle or be prepared to carpool in one.*

Facilities: Do not count on restrooms, although there may be porta-potties.

Trips 2 & 18: Walhalla Fish Hatchery, Burrell's Ford, and Bad Creek

This area, in the extreme northwestern corner of the state, showcases unique habitats and beautiful scenery. Burrell's Ford and the Walhalla Fish Hatchery are along the Chattooga River and are two of only a few locations in South Carolina to find breeding Red-breasted Nuthatch and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Swainson's Warbler is also likely, as are Worm-eating, Hooded, Black-throated Green, and Black-and-white Warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Acadian Flycatcher should be found as well. From the fish hatchery, we'll make several stops on the way to Bad Creek, which flows into Lake Jocassee. There we will continue to sort through resident and migrant birds.

Access Conditions: This trip will involve some hiking, but should not be strenuous.

Facilities: Restrooms are available at the hatchery.

Trips 3 & 19: Lake Jocassee and Devil's Fork State Park

We'll begin the morning on one of the trails at Devil's Fork State Park in search of warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and other migrants. The highlight of this trip

will be a pontoon boat ride onto Lake Jocassee with local guide Brooks Wade of Jocassee Lake Tours. Lake Jocassee has a significant wintering population of Common Loon and Horned Grebe, some of which may still be present and easily viewed from the boat. Rareties such as late, lingering Red-necked Grebes are also a distinct possibility on Lake Jocassee, as is a look at the Peregrine Falcons that nest along the cliffs on the eastern shore. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch (bring your own) out on the lake before returning to the dock. If time allows after the boat trip, we may continue to bird at Devil's Fork SP, or travel up to Bad Creek in the Jocassee Gorges. **Extra fee of \$35 payable in cash to the boat operator at time of tour.**

Access Conditions: Some light hiking, but the largest portion of the day will be spent on the boat. Wear sunscreen.

Facilities: Restrooms are available at Devil's Fork State Park.

Trip 4: Lake Conestee Nature Park

Lake Conestee, south of Greenville, consists of approximately 400 acres of diverse habitat and has been designated as an Important Bird Area of Global Significance by the National Audubon Society. Nearly 200 species of birds have been identified at Lake Conestee, thanks in large part to its diverse habitat and great trail system. We'll work our way around some of these trails to find a variety of lingering waterfowl, waders, woodpeckers, warblers, and more. A spring day at Lake Conestee can produce a very impressive list. After birding at Conestee, we will travel to nearby Gunter Road to see if the perennial Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have yet arrived, while looking for other grassland species such as Grasshopper Sparrow, meadowlark, and Loggerhead Shrike.

Access Conditions: This trip will include a lot of walking, but all on level trails in good condition.

Facilities: Restrooms are available at the park entrance.

Trips 5, 12, 21, & 28: Townville Area

The open country, wildlife management areas, and

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

views of Lake Hartwell near Townville collectively make up one of the most productive birding areas in Upstate South Carolina. The agricultural areas are home to Grasshopper Sparrow, Horned Lark, meadowlark, and the occasional Loggerhead Shrike. There may be lingering Savannah, Vesper, or White-crowned Sparrows to be found. The ponds at Dobbins Farm may host a few late ducks as well as a handful of shorebirds. Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area gives another chance for waterfowl, as well as good habitat for warblers (including Prothonotary), wrens, and perhaps even a night-heron. The full-day options (Trips 5 and 21) will have time to continue to several overlooks on Lake Hartwell to look for gulls, terns, Cliff Swallow, and Osprey.

Access Conditions: Some walking, but on level trails in good conditions. Lots of open country, so wear sunscreen.

Facilities: Limited restroom availability, mostly at a local gas station.

Trips 6 & 22: Nine Times Preserve and the Eastatoe Valley

The Nature Conservancy's Nine Times Preserve is a 560-acre preserve protecting one of the most biologically significant properties in the southern Appalachian foothills. This beautiful preserve features several different forest types, rock outcrop plant communities, a great variety of wildflowers, and a varied bird life to match. We'll start our day exploring some of the trails to look for migrant as well as nesting warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and other passerines. Highlight breeding residents should include Kentucky, Hooded, Black-throated Green, and Black-and-white Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat. We'll have a brief look at the adjacent Nine Times Forest recently protected by Naturaland Trust before working our way up the Eastatoe Valley. This scenic, pastoral valley offers a variety of habitats and has a reputation for turning up a few rarities each year during migration. Finally, we'll head to Sassafras Mountain, the highest point in South Carolina, looking for a variety of migrants, including Swainson's Warbler as we climb.

Access Conditions: Some hiking at the Nine Times Preserve may be moderately strenuous, after which hiking should be easy. Difficult portions of the trails at Nine Times will be brief, and can be easily skipped.

Facilities: There will be one bathroom stop on the route.

Trips 7 & 23: Rocky River Park

This park, adjacent to the Anderson University Sports Complex, has just been acquired and is just starting to be developed. Plans are in the works for extensive trails, boardwalks, foot bridges, overlooks, and an educational center. Come out and explore the undeveloped trails and roadsides of what promises to be the next birding gem in Upstate South Carolina. The park includes upland mixed hardwood forest, wetlands and swamp, and vistas of the Rocky River. It's a very promising spot for some migrant activity!

Access Conditions: Walking may be on uneven or undeveloped trails, and may include off-trail travel.

Facilities: Restrooms available nearby.

Trips 8, 13, 24, & 29: South Carolina Botanical Gardens

The SC Botanical Garden at Clemson University features 295 acres of diverse gardens, streams, and nature trails with a penchant for attracting a great variety of migrant songbirds. It is quickly becoming recognized as a hotspot among Upstate birders. We'll tour through the gardens to find those migrants, along with resident lingering winter residents, and enjoy some botanizing as well. Birding in the gardens is easy, with a network of well-developed trails.

Access Conditions: Easy walking on well-developed, mostly level trails.

Facilities: Restrooms are available at the Gardens.

Trips 9 & 25: Lake Issaqueena Recreation Area

The Lake Issaqueena Recreation Area, a portion of the Clemson University Experimental Forest, is situated around a small lake formed by a dam on 12-Mile

(Continued on page 8)

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

(Continued from page 7)

Creek, which feeds into Lake Hartwell. The forest here is primarily oak-hickory, but has patches of rhododendron thickets as well as some large stands of pine. This variety of habitats produces a good variety of migrant and resident songbirds.

Access Conditions: The road into Lake Issaqueena includes one small stream crossing, so a high-clearance vehicle (or carpooling in one) is recommended.

Facilities: No restrooms available.

Trips 10, 15, 26, & 31: Clemson Aquaculture Facility

This locally well-known birding gem next to Lake Hartwell includes impoundments, agricultural fields, mud flats, wooded paths, and tree-lines, and boasts over 200 total species on record! This site regularly produces Sora, and has the potential for a nice variety of shorebirds. Last spring it turned up both Willow and Alder Flycatcher at the same time!

Access Conditions: Some significant walking involved, but all on level roads and paths. Shade is scarce, so wear sunscreen.

Facilities: Restrooms are available.

Trips 11 & 27: South Cove County Park

South Cove County Park is a 50-acre property surrounded by pristine Lake Keowee. Throughout the year over 100 species of birds are counted in the various habitats that the park offers. More species have been recorded on eBird at the park than at any other single site in Oconee County. The park recently completed the Hermit Thrush Nature Trail, featuring bird feeding stations and a bird blind. The campground is situated on a peninsula that funnels flocks of birds before they cross the lake during migration. South Cove County Park has also been installing butterfly gardens throughout the park this past year. This is a great place to go take a morning stroll, watching the many species of birds and butterflies.

Access Conditions: Easy walking on well-

maintained trails and roads.

Facilities: Restrooms are available at the park.

Trips 14 & 30: Clemson Experimental Forest South

This large portion of the Clemson University Experimental Forest, located south of town, includes a number of forest types as well as some wetlands and views of sections of Lake Hartwell. The forest has an extensive network of trails and dirt roads, giving access to a nice variety of habitats.

Access Conditions: A fair amount of walking will be required, but all on level, improved roads and trails.

Facilities: No restrooms available.

Trips 16 & 32: Beginning Birders' Seminar at SC Botanical Gardens

This outing is targeted toward beginning or intermediate birders and will focus on equipment use, fieldcraft, and tips for locating and identifying birds. We'll also delve into birding ethics and etiquette. The trip will be slower-paced and is perfect for anyone interested in developing their skills in the easy-to-bird SC Botanical Gardens. See the description for Trip 8 for more details on the Botanical Gardens.

Access Conditions: Easy, slow-paced walking on level, well-developed trails.

Facilities: Restrooms are available.

Trip 17: Table Rock State Park and Nine Times Preserve

We'll start the morning birding near the Visitor Center at Table Rock State Park, which offers great views of the huge granite monolith for which the park is named. The trails here often produce a nice variety of migrant songbirds, while offering views of raptors, vultures, and the occasional Common Raven soaring nearby. After exploring the trails and old homestead near the Visitor Center, we'll bird some more forested areas of the park, looking for residents such as Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded, Black-and-white, Worm-eating, and Black-throated Green Warblers, as well as

(Continued on page 10)

Josh Southern Receives CBC Service Award

The Executive Committee of the Carolina Bird Club recognized the services of Josh Southern to the CBC by honoring him with our club's service award at the recent Nags Head winter meeting.

Josh Southern is a native North Carolinian. He is a graduate of Apex High School, a graduate of the North Carolina State University School of Design, and is currently pursuing an MBA at East Carolina University. Josh has had a lifelong interest in birds and his early years were spent birding throughout the greater Raleigh area and much of eastern North Carolina.

Despite his young age, Josh has been active with the Carolina Bird Club for almost 20 years. In 2009, when the Executive Committee decided to update the old CBC logo, they turned to Josh for help. Josh used his creative talents to design a new logo that incorporated the outline of both states and our club symbol, the Yellow-breasted Chat. The new logo was unanimously approved in late 2010 and first appeared in The Chat in the Spring 2011 issue and in the CBC Newsletter in August 2011. Josh's logo design has received many positive comments and serves as our

web logo as well.

In 2008, Ricky Davis, the Briefs for the Files editor for The Chat, asked to step down after many years of service to the club. A search for his replacement was conducted and Josh Southern volunteered to take over this very time consuming and detail-oriented task. His first Briefs for the Files summary was published in the Winter 2009 issue of The Chat. Since that time, Josh has compiled and edited the seasonal Briefs for the Files summary for 25 issues. Each issue incorporates 300 to 400 notable bird observations of about 130 or more species reported from throughout the Carolinas. When combined, these summaries comprise a work of almost 600 published pages. In addition, Josh solicits submission of photographs of many of these bird sightings for publication in The Chat.

The time and energy that Josh has contributed to the Carolina Bird Club has been remarkable. He has shown a tremendous amount of dedication and commitment to our organization and to the success of The Chat, our quarterly journal.

Thank you Josh!

CBC Donation Helps Protect Habitat in Colombia

Scott Winton and Natalie Ocampo-Peñuela, on behalf of the Carolina Bird Club, arranged for part of the proceeds from last year's Colombia field trip to help fund conservation efforts in that country. Recently the CBC received the following from Stuart Pimm, president of the non-profit organization SavingSpecies.

I hope you will share with the members of the Carolina Bird Club the excellent news that SavingSpecies has completed the cloud forest restoration project in the Western Andes of Colombia. The Club's support for SavingSpecies' project, more than \$3,700, was crucial to making this project a success. As Colombia is the country with highest number of bird species, the Club can be very proud of its generous efforts.

At SavingSpecies, we help local non-profit conservation organizations purchase land to restore and conserve forests that are critical to the survival of many of

the world's most threatened and endangered species. SavingSpecies focuses on connecting, protecting and restoring 'wildlife corridors'--degraded areas of fragmented forest that contribute to species extinction. With this focus, we strengthen forests and the genetic diversity that make wildlife, from plants to birds to frogs and butterflies, thrive.

In Colombia, we helped The Hummingbird Conservancy, a non-profit, protect land for rare *Dracula* orchids and hummingbirds, and our work led to the discovery of nine new species of frogs. Building on that success, we decided to help The Hummingbird Conservancy purchase a nearby parcel of land on the top of the valley on the opposite side of the ridge. At 628 acres, this land parcel will ensure that an area of about 50 square miles remains connected with the cloud forests along the main ridge of the western An-

(Continued on page 10)

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

(Continued from page 8)

for more migrants. After Table Rock, we will stop by the Nine Times Preserve on the way back to Clemson to look for Kentucky Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and others.

Access Conditions: Some walking, but on relatively level and easy trails. We will skip the moderately strenuous portions of the trails at the Nine Times Preserve on this outing.

Facilities: Restrooms are available at Table Rock State Park.

Trip 20: Cedar Falls Park, Gunter Road, and Holliday Circle

We'll start the morning on a road less traveled with some roadside birding along Holliday Circle in lower Greenville County. A variety of habitats including open field, early successional, and hardwood bottom-land forest, provide the opportunity to view many different species including Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Acadian Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. We may also see Cliff Swallows, which nest under the bridge over the Saluda River just a short distance away. From there we will travel a short distance over to historic Cedar Falls Park. There we will walk along the beautiful, expansive shoals of the Reedy River and see the remnants of the nearly two centuries-old mill structures as we search the trails for breeding Yellow-throated Vireo, and Swainson's, Kentucky, and Prothonotary Warblers. After birding at Cedar Falls, we will travel to nearby Gunter Road to see if the perennial Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have yet arrived, while looking for other grassland species such as Grasshopper Sparrow, meadowlark, and Loggerhead Shrike.

Access Conditions: This trip will include a fair amount of walking, on level trails and roadsides in good condition.

Facilities: Restrooms are available at Cedar Falls Park.



Tweet, Tweet... What's in Your Backyard? Bird Photography Exhibit Opens at Oriental's History Museum

Oriental's History Museum opens a new exhibit, "Feathered Friends of Oriental", featuring photos taken by local photographers and bird enthusiasts. How many birds can you identify? Take the bird identification quiz! Better yet, bring your children and grandchildren and take the quiz with them! The Museum is also raffling several photos and a birdhouse with a drawing on July 4th at the Croaker Festival.

"Feathered Friends of Oriental" will run through May.

Museum hours are: Friday 11-3, Saturday 1-4, Sunday 1-4. The Museum is located at 802 Broad Street in Oriental, NC. Admission is always free. For more information contact the museum at museum@dockline.net.

Colombia

(Continued from page 9)

des. This is a major effort, but one that will help countless species to survive the threats of global warming and mining. And the bird diversity is simply spectacular! The reserve is located within the regional Important Bird Area CO024 Montane Forests of South Antioquia. Two hundred and seventy four species of birds in 44 families have been registered in the original 630 hectare area.

Of course, the project helps a multitude of other species, including the highly charismatic and adorable Olinguito, the first carnivore species described in 30 years, and many plants and insects as well. The resulting restored forests absorb 7.5 tons or more of carbon per hectare per year, according to a recently published study.

Again, we at SavingSpecies are so pleased to have completed this project—and very grateful to the CBC for its confidence and support of our work.



Save a Stamp!
Consider using our Online Registration
at www.carolinabirdclub.org!



**CBC Clemson Meeting Registration Form
May 1-2, 2015**

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening phone (____) _____

Email _____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-member) _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes above.

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip. Meeting registration at the door costs \$35.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

**Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374**

Before sending in this form, check the website to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled, or cancelled. www.carolinabirdclub.org

Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded if received by Friday, April 24, 2015.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary (hq@carolinabirdclub.org). If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.



Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612



3 9088 01808 8450

Periodicals Postage Paid at
 Pinehurst, NC 28374 and
 additional mailing
 offices

8**1*****MIXED ADC 270
 142 0/3000
 SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES
 NHB 25-MRC 154
 BOX 37012/SERIALS
 WASHINGTON DC 20013



Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2015 - Hickory, SC
 Winter 2016 - Litchfield, SC

CBC Board Members

President, Katherine Higgins
 Wilmington, NC kathwrens@gmail.com

Vice-Presidents

Ron Clark, Kings Mountain, NC
 Jeff Click, Easley, SC
 Scott Winton, Durham, NC

Secretary

Doris Ratchford, Todd, NC

Treasurer

Samir Gabriel, Huntersville, NC

NC Members-at-Large

Karyl Gabriel, Huntersville
 Jesse Pope, Linville
 Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt
 Jeri Smart, Rolesville

SC Members-at-Large

Irvin Pitts, Lexington
 Lewis Burke, Columbia

Immediate Past President Marion Clark, Lexington, SC
Editor of *The Chat*, Don Seriff, Charlotte, NC

Website Editor, Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Editor of *CBC Newsletter*, Steven Shultz

2404 Bristers Spring Way, Apex, NC 27523
 919-608-2069, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February,
 April, June, August, and October.

Headquarters Secretary, Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC

hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Website: www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$25; Family, \$30; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, \$30; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues of \$25 include \$4 for a subscription to *CBC Newsletter* and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@ \$5.45, 25@ \$13.40, 50@ \$27.00, and 100@ \$54.00. Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2014.

Printed on 100% recycled paper at Grass Roots Press.